CLASSIFICATION

RESTRICTED

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

STAT

INFORMATION FROM FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS

COUNTRY

Г

German Democratic Republic

DATE OF

SUBJECT

Paramilitary - People's Police

Switzerlani; Argentina; Sweden

1951 INFORMATION

HOW

Weekly, daily newspapers

DATE DIST. 14 Apr 1951

**PUBLISHED** WHERE PUBLISHED

NO. OF PAGES 2

DATE

PUBLISHED

13 Jan - 21 Feb 1951

SUPPLEMENT TO

LANGUAGE

German; Swedish

REPORT NO.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE

Newspapers as indicated.

## GIVES ORGANIZATION, TRAINING DATA ON PEOPLE'S POLICE

NAMES 5 GROUP COMMANDERS -- Zofingen, Allgemeine Schweizerische Volks-Zeitung, 13 Jan 51

At present the VOPO (Volkspolizei, People's Police) has a strength of 130,000 men, with adequate infantry equipment. Morale is good, despite occasional desertions. The strongest regiments of the VOPO Elite Bereitschaften (Alert Units) are stationed in the fortified cities of Osterburg, Burg, Apollendorf near Magdeburg, Schwerin, Erfurt, and Saalfeld.

Gruppenkommandanten (group commanders) of the five East German laender are Generals Laffmann (fnu) for Brandenburg, Weissenberger (fnu) for Mecklenburg, Von Weech (fnu) for Sachsen, Breithaupt (fnu) for Sachsen-Anhalt, and Schubert (fnu) for Thueringen. These group commanders are in charge of the Bereitschaften and the Police. Only the Land-level organizations of the State Security Service are under purely political control.

The VOPO's only aviation school is located in Erfurt, a city known as "the capital of Soviet German aviation." According to reliable information; this school has little actual significance, having only some 50 old, Junker and Messerschmitt aircraft at its disposal.

Daily, some 200 illegal border crossers go over into West Germany Via the "Friedenslinie" (peace boundary), as it is known in the Soviet Union, or "Friedhof Linie" (cemetery line), as the West Germans call it. The Occupation Powers and the West German authorities, alike, know that at least 10 percent of those who choose "liberty" are Communiat agents.

These spies and agitators are trained in the so-called "Politkultur" schools in Torgan and Aschersleben. Director of the Torgan school is 45-year-old Johann Sanitzer, a former Gestapo official and henchman of Kaltenbrunner, one-time chief of the Vienna Gestapo headquarters at the Hotel Metropol.

## RESTRICTED

		CLASSIFICATION	RESTRICTED	
STATE	XNAYY	X NSRB	DISTRIBUTION	
ARMY	X AIR	X FBI		

Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2011/10/	19 : CIA-RDP80-00809A000600390046-8
--	-------------------------------------

•	•	•			r	~		500	
Ī.			l.	1.4	ĸ	. 4	ù	L	4
15	١.	ď.	ŭ.	1.4	Æ	٠.		г	16
34	حنة	u		32	ĸ	40	1	_	н

RESTRICTED

**STAT** 

Each of these espionage training centers has about 500 resident students. Not a single alumnus of these sinister academies has ever been known to desert, although most of their operations are carried out in West Germany, where it would be a simple matter for them to ask for sanctuary. These men are the real shock troops of the People's Police, political soldiers and desperados, whose fanatical determination must not be underestimated.

PEOPLE'S POLICE UNIT MUTINIES -- Buenos Aires, Argentinisches Tageblatt, 21 Feb 51

On 5 February, 300 People's Police members in Hoyerswerda, Sachsen, an entire unit mutinied because they were to be trained in the use of heavy weapons.

The West Berlin <u>Stadtblatt</u> reports that all of the above members of the People's Police were arrested and sent to an unknown destination.

POLICE OFFICERS TRAINED IN USSR -- Stockholm, Svenska Dagbladet, 28 Jan 51

Berlin, 27 January -- Recently, 150 officers of the People's Police went to the USSR to study at a military academy for 16 months. Thirty of the higher staff officers will be trained as general staff officers in Moscow, while 120 will be trained at the academy in Saratov as battalion, regiment, and division commanders.

- E N D -

- 2 -

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTE